



NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

NEMA Media Contact:

October 5, 2011, 5:30 p.m. CDT

Jodie Fawl, Public Information Officer
(402) 471-7428 jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov

Governor Issues Emergency Proclamation for Fires

LINCOLN, Neb. – Gov. Dave Heineman issued a proclamation today declaring a state of emergency in Nebraska in response to fires in the Stapleton and Logan County area in central Nebraska.

“This action is necessary as high winds and dry conditions are presenting an imminent threat to local government’s ability to respond,” Gov. Heineman said. “This proclamation allows us to take steps necessary to protect the people and resources of the State of Nebraska.”

The response to the fires has included numerous local and volunteer fire departments, the State Fire Marshal’s Office, the Nebraska State Patrol, the Logan County Sheriff, Red Cross, Salvation Army, local emergency management, NEMA, and the Department of Roads .

“Early damage estimates are reaching \$4 million,” said Al Berndt, assistant director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. “We have reports of damage to 12 pivot irrigation systems; cropland and as many as four homes have been destroyed or affected. The emergency declaration will help support local response operations.”

Air operations were suspended in the fire fight because of high winds. More than 14 loads of water totaling 3,000 gallons were dropped prior to suspension of the air operations.

###

